



February 27, 2012

Mr. Don Jardine, Chair
Members of the Board of Directors
Mr. Harold Singer, Executive Officer
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

**Re: Letter of Support
USDA Forest Service - LTBMU South Shore Fuels Reduction Project**

Dear Chairman Jardine, Board Members, and Executive Officer Singer:

On behalf of the Multi Agency Coordinating Group (Fire MAC) of the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, I am writing to express strong support for the USFS/LTBMU South Shore Fuels Reduction Project. We understand Lahontan RWQCB staff is completing its analysis and staff report in preparation for an April Lahontan Board meeting to consider project and permit approval.

We believe the the USDA Forest Service/LTBMU has been diligent and thorough in its efforts to present a project deserving of Lahontan's support and approval without further delay. Please consider the following:

- All vegetation and fuels treatments will restore the ecosystem and improve water quality within watersheds in the project area.
- All road maintenance, reconstruction and restoration work as it is described in the FS analysis will also improve water quality.
- The South Shore Final EIS describes adequate mitigation measures (Resource Protection Measures) and monitoring to protect water quality.

In preparing its staff report, and in consideration of its actions related to this vital project, we respectfully request the Lahontan RWQCB review and incorporate into its decision, the intent of following findings from the ***Emergency California-Nevada Tahoe Basin Fire Commission Report***:

Category 1. Environmental Protection

Findings: 1, 2, 3

Category 2. Issues of Governance

Findings: 5, 7, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17

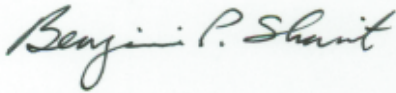
Category 4. Forest and Fuels Management

Findings: 21, 22, 24

The South Shore Project is consistent with the ***Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Fire Prevention Strategy 10-Year Plan***.

Please support the approval and permits for the USDA Forest Service LTBMU South Shore Fuels Reduction Project so that the project can proceed this year. It is essential for the protection of life, property and the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Benjamin P. Sharit", written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Benjamin P. Sharit
Chief, Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District
Chair, Multi Agency Coordination Group (Fire MAC)
Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team

cc: Members, Fire MAC and Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team